LEAD: THE FACTS

What you need to know in East Grand Rapids

1 WHAT WAS LEAD USED FOR IN MY HOME OR BUSINESS?

Lead is a naturally occurring metal that was used regularly in a number of industrial capacities for most of the 20th century. It was used as a component of paint, piping (including drinking water service lines), solder and brass. Though there has been a lot of information regarding lead water service lines, there are other components to home plumbing and fixtures that also may be sources of lead.

2 WHEN WERE LEAD SERVICES INSTALLED IN THE DRINKING WATER SYSTEM?

According the Michigan Rural Water Association, lead services were installed into the 1930s when they were phased out. Because some contractors and plumbers had excess inventories, it is possible that lead services were installed in both municipal and residential water line services at later times.

3 ARE WATER MAINS MADE OF LEAD?

No. Water mains in EGR consist of cast and ductile iron.

I'M CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN MY HOME.

GENERAL LEAD INFORMATION

Kent County Health Department, Environmental Health Services: 616.632.6900

University of Michigan Lead FAQ: bit.ly/2OLUVLR

OLDER HOMES & LEAD PAINT CONCERNS

Healthy Homes Coalition: 616.241.3300,

healthyhomescoalition.org

WATER QUALITY TESTING

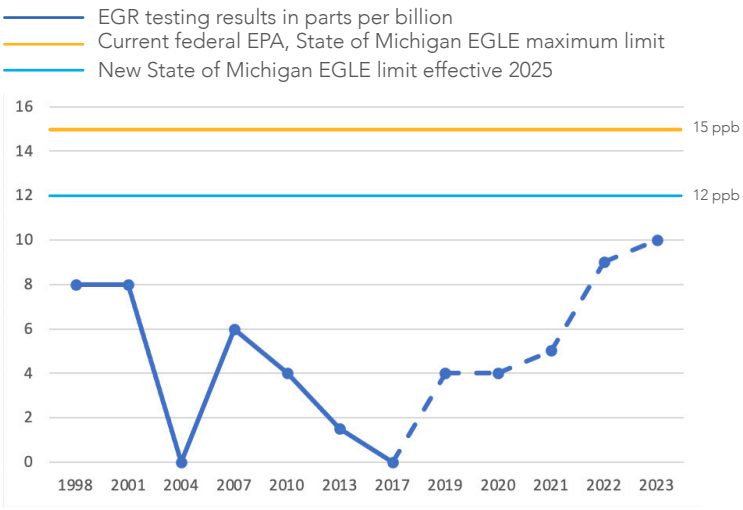
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE): michigan.gov/egle

There are also several private laboratories in the Grand Rapids area that are EGLE certified that can test water samples:

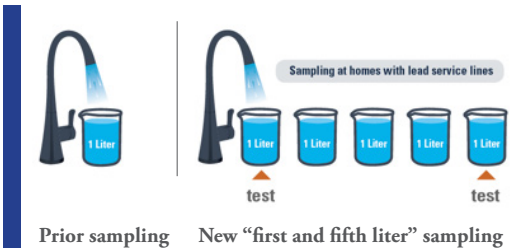
ALS Laboratory Group:	616.399.6070
Prein and Newhof:	616.364.7600
TriMatrix Laboratories:	616.975.4500

4 WHAT ARE THE LEAD LEVELS IN THE EAST GRAND RAPIDS WATER SYSTEM?

In 1994, the City of Grand Rapids, EGR's source of drinking water, began treating water with phosphates, an anti-corrosive additive that coats the interior of pipes. This coating creates a barrier that protects pipes from corroding and leaching lead or copper into the water supply. Over time, lead in drinking water has dramatically decreased due to this treatment. The federal maximum limit for drinking water for lead is currently 15 parts per billion (ppb). In 2025, EGLE will set a more stringent requirement for drinking water than that of the federal EPA to 12 ppb.



The dashed line denotes the change in sampling in EGLE's methodology in 2019. 2022 testing results were impacted by one excessive sample. Retesting did not replicate results.

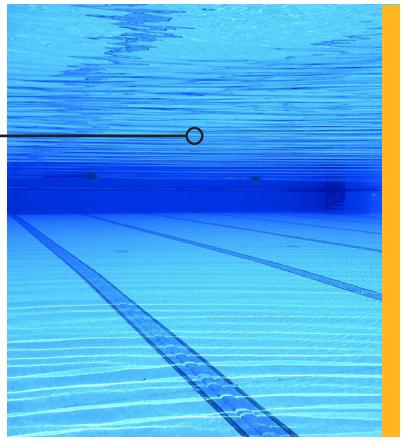


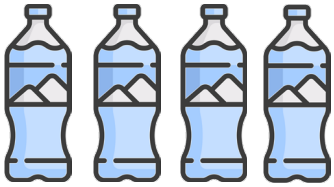
Prior sampling **New "first and fifth liter" sampling**

Lead service with coated layer from phosphate treatment

5 WHAT IS PPB?

Parts per billion is the measurement used to describe small dimensions. 1 ppb is the equivalent of a single drop of water in an olympic-sized swimming pool.





DID YOU KNOW?
FDA-approved bottled water may contain up to 5 ppb.

6 ARE RESIDENTS NOTIFIED OF WHAT'S IN THE DRINKING WATER?

The City mails a consumer confidence report (CCR) every year to property owners. The CCR is sent out in the spring and notes all the testing results and parameters for water. CCR reports and other testing reports are also available online at eastgr.org/watersewer.

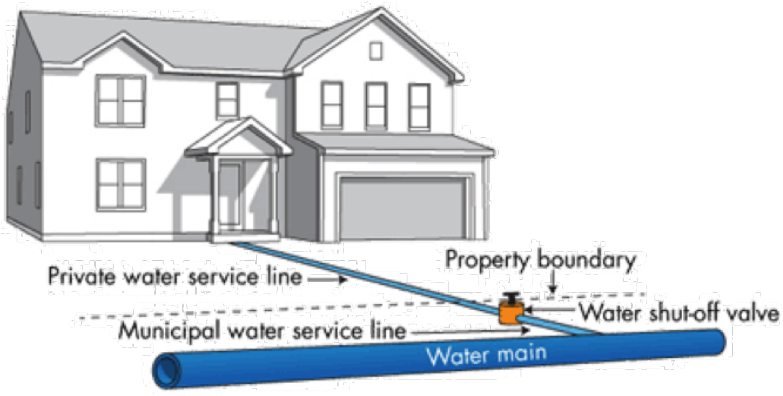
7 WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WATER SERVICES AND WHEN ARE THEY REPLACED?

In 2019, the City notified all EGR residents and property owners of lead services lines based on a records review. Residents and property owners whose service lines were assumed by the City to be lead based on year of construction of the home and infrastructure were provided additional information. The City actively replaces water services if/when there is a leak or when a water main is replaced. However, property owners may elect to replace a private lead service line at any time with a permit from the City. If a private lead service is replaced and the public side is determined to be lead, the City will replace the public portion at the same time at no cost. Under the new lead and copper rule, the City will replace public and private lead services if your home is within limits of a water main replacement rehabilitation project, there is a leak or in areas targeted for replacement in accordance with asset management planning. Through 2024, the City will hydro excavate all water services lines in the public right of way to ensure it exceeds EGLE's inventory assessment requirements.

8 IF THE LEAD SERVICE IS REPLACED, DOES THIS MEAN THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF LEAD IN MY WATER?

There are three components to lead piping as it relates to a property:

- The City portion of the service from the main to the shut-off/curb stop
- The property owner's portion from the shut-off/curb stop to the water meter
- The interior plumbing in the home



If any of these portions of plumbing contain lead pipe or lead solder, there is potential for the presence of lead. If the City replaces a lead service through maintenance or a project, it is possible that the property owner's portion of a service is still lead. Lead solder was used until 1988 for internal pipe plumbing. With excess lead solder in the market, it is possible that it could have been used into the early 1990s. Unless all of these areas of plumbing are addressed, it cannot be guaranteed that there is no presence of lead in the drinking water of a home or business. As noted, the coating of pipes with phosphates as part of the water treatment process helps protect against any of these sections of piping that may contain lead.

9 WHAT SOURCE OF LEAD CONTAMINATION IS GREATEST WHEN IT COMES TO LEAD AND MY PROPERTY/HOME?

According to the EPA, lead paint and contaminated dust and soil are the leading household sources of lead exposure.

10 WHERE CAN I GET MY WATER TESTED?

The City of EGR does not currently provide this service unless you partake in our sampling pool, which follows strict protocols. If you would like to be considered for our sampling group, please call the Public Works Department - Operations Division at 616.940.4870. If you would like to get your water tested more quickly, we advise you to contact the EGLE-certified labs listed on the first page of this document. You can also visit michigan.gov/eglelab to learn more about EGLE's laboratory services.

11 HOW DO I REDUCE POTENTIAL EXPOSURE FROM DRINKING WATER?

- Run your water before drinking. The more time water has been sitting in your home's pipes, the more lead it may contain. Therefore, if your water has not been used for several hours, run the water before using it for drinking or cooking. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes. Additional flushing may be required for homes that have been vacant or have a longer service line.
- If you do not have a lead service line, run the water for 30 seconds to two minutes, or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature.
- If you do have a lead service line, run the water for at least five minutes to flush water from both the interior building plumbing and the lead service line. Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling will not remove the lead. Use cold water for drinking and cooking. Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Use cold water for preparing baby formula. Do not use water from the hot tap to make baby formula. If you have a lead service line, consider using bottled water or a lead-reducing filter to prepare baby formula.
- Clean your faucet aerator. As part of routine maintenance, the aerator on the end of your faucet should be removed at least every six months to rinse out any debris that may include particulate lead.
- Everyone can consider using a water filter to reduce lead in drinking water. Read packaging to find a filter that meets NSF/ANSI Standard 53 for the reduction of lead. Be sure to maintain and replace the filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality.
- Consider replacing older plumbing fixtures that likely contain lead. Older faucets, fittings, and valves sold before 2014 may contain higher levels of lead, even if marked "lead-free." Faucets, fittings, and valves sold after January 2014 are required to meet a more restrictive "lead-free" definition but may still contain up to 0.25 percent lead.
- Flush your cold-water pipes after long periods of non-use. If you are moving into a new home or apartment or residence that has been unoccupied for some time, you should run all faucets an extended period of time, five minutes or more, before using any water for drinking or cooking.

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HOW DO I KNOW IF MY HOME HAS A LEAD WATER SERVICE LINE?

The City has started a comprehensive hydro excavating program to physically verify and determine water service line materials for all properties, to the extent possible, for all properties has and continues to provide residents with notice if it is determined that a home or property has a lead service line. In addition, to provide more easily accessible information, the City has also created a public GIS layer to provide information on lead water service lines. The inventory is available by visiting gvmc-regis.org.

*Disclaimer: The inventory is updated based on progress in the field which can be impacted by equipment issues, weather, and other variables.